

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 ACDA-05 IO-11 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-05 /088 W

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O P 130820Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7699

INFO ALL OAU CAPITALS PRIORITY 017

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0417

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAU AO

SUBJECT: OAU ANGOLAN SUMMIT: ADJOURNS AS HEAD-ON CONFRONTATION
BRINGS NO SOLUTION

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0398 AND PREVIOUS

1. AT 05:30 LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 13, OAU SPOKESMAN TOLD
NEWSMEN AND OTHER OAU WATCHERS THAT THE SUMMIT HAD BEEN
ADJOURNED. HE SAID THAT AFTER SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THE
ANGOLAN PROBLEM JANUARY 10 TO 12, THE ASSEMBLY OF THE HEADS
OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE OAU HAD DECIDED TO ADJOURN
THE SUMMIT AND TO REQUEST THE BUREAU (FOR ANGOLA) OF THE
12TH SUMMIT (IN KAMPALA) TO FOLLOW THE QUESTION CLOSELY.

2. ALTHOUGH MANY ATTEMPTS AT COMPROMISE WERE MADE BY MEM-
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BERS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND AS MANY AS 5 DRAFT PROPOSALS WERE

REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED JANUARY 12, HARDLINERS, FROM BOTH PRO-MPLA AND ANTI-MPLA FACTIONS, REFUSED TO COM-
PROMISE. WHILE ALL CONFEREES COULD AGREE TO CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION AND THE MODERATE PROPOSAL FOR A GOVERNMENT OF RECONCILIATION WAS DISCARDED MIDWAY DURING THE DAY, REPORTEDLY NO AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS.

3. ACCORDING TO ONE RELIABLE SOURCE, THE ASSEMBLY AP-
POINTED A 5-NATION NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FROM EACH SIDE TO TRY TO HAMMER OUT A COMPROMISE FOR THE GOOD OF AFRICA. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, AFTER THIS GROUP HAD ENGAGED IN CONSIDERABLE DEBATE, OAU CHAIRMAN IDIDAMIN IMPATIENTLY INTERRUPTED IT AND HUMOROUSLY URGED THE GROUP TO FIND A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD SAVE HIS CHAIRMANSHIP FROM ILL RE-
PUTE. THIS REPORTEDLY ANGERED THE CONFEREES WHO TOLD AMIN TO WITHDRAW. AMIN WITHDREW AND APPARENTLY PRECI-
PITOUSLY ADJOURNED THE SUMMIT.

4. ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY ACTIVE AWAY FROM OAU PREMISES, THE CUBAN DELEGATION DID NOT ADDRESS THE SUMMIT AS PRE-
DICTED POSSIBLE IN ADDIS ABABA 0313.

5. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND NIGHT OF JANUARY 12, AND THE EARLY MORNING OF JANUARY 13, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THERE WAS LITTLE GIVE ON THE BOTH SIDES FOR A COM-
PROMISE. MORE EXPERIENCED HEADS OF STATE SUCH AS NYERERE OF TANZANIA AND SIAD OF SOMALIA ON THE PRO-MPLA SIDE AND KUANDA FROM ZAMBIA ON THE ANTI-MPLA SIDE REPORTEDLY SHOWED CONSIDERABLE WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE. MORE RADICAL MPLA SUPPORTERS AND THE MPLA ITSELF, WHOSE BACK WAS STIFFEREND BY THE CUBAN DELEGATION CURRENTLY IN ADDIS, REFUSED ANY SIGNIFICANT COMPROMISE. WHILE NOTE "THE DEATH KNEEL OF THE OAU" AS WARNED BY GHANAIAAN FOREIGN MINISTER FELLI (C.F. PARA 4 ADDIS 0284), THE FAILURE OF THE SUMMIT TO ARRIVE AT AT LEAST AN ACCEPTABLE COMPRO-
MISE, HOWEVER WATERED DOWN, IS A SEVERE SETBACK TO OAU PRESTIGE, HEIGHTENS INTRA-AFRICAN TENSIONS AND OPENS THE WAY FOR EVEN GREATER DISARRAY IN ANGOLA.
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HUMMEL

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